

I doubt anyhow if it could have been older than a bison that was shot recently in these parts with one horn worn down to a stump, deaf, partly blind and with most of its teeth missing. This bull had nine corrugations, and I put its age down to between 20 and 25 years.

I believe that in the case of domestic cattle one way of telling the age is by giving a year for each ring on the horn, and then adding two. This could not possibly apply to the Tinnevely bison!

It would be interesting I think to collect opinions as to the average life of a bison.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE, RANDOLPH C. MORRIS, F.Z.S.  
 ATTIKAN P. O.  
 Via MYSORE,  
 S. INDIA.  
 June 19, 1932.

# VII.—ELEPHANTS.—AGE TO WHICH THEY LIVE IN CAPTIVITY.

There are in the possession of the Madras Forest Department 78 elephants of over twenty years of age.

S. No.	Name and sex of elephant	How obtained			Age to nearest year on 1-1-'32	Length of time in captivity
		Born	Purchased	Captured		
1	Lalamiah, M.			Mar. 1891	54	41 yrs.
2	Abudl Rahman, M.			Apr. 1900	47	32
3	Savithri, F.			14-5-1912	45	20
4	Eva, F.		1885	...	56	47
5	Hanuman, M.			19-2-1905	42	27
6	Rolly, M.			18-4-1916	30	16
7	Zarah, F.			14-3-1896	48	36
8	Bkathu, F.			6-4-1900	42	32
9	Phyllis, F.			12-8-1904	35	27
10	Looly, M.			25-7-1907	30	24
11	Akbar I, M.	22-2-1888		...	44	44
12	Etona, M.			3-6-1907	31	24
13	Haffiz, M.			4-3-1917	30	15
14	Empress, F.			21-2-1910	44	22
15	Jayam, F.			23-8-1926	30	5
16	Bhavani, F.			9-4-1913	30	17
17	Murree, M.			20-3-1905	30	17
18	Valmiki, M.			12-5-1914	32	18
19	Little Willy, M.			25-5-1915	25	17
20	Mur Mahal, F.			25-2-1898	42	34
21	Jhellum, F.			27-6-1902	37	29
22	Loo, M.			Apr. 1890	54	32
23	Frank, M.			18-10-1906	43	25

S. No.	Name and sex of elephant	How obtained			Age to nearest year on 1.1-'32	Length of time in captivity
		Born	Purchased	Captured		
24	Logo, M.			19-6-1905	29	26
25	Narayana, M.			13-3-1919	32	13
26	Donald, M.			27-1-1907	35	25
27	Tineebaw, M.			Jan. 1886	54	46
28	Kurokki, M.			19-2-1905	35	27
29	Godavery, F.			12-3-1915	47	17
30	Kuttiparu, F.			25-8-1907	30	24
31	Monlabaksh, M.			6-4-1911	31	21
32	Kitty, F.			30-7-1903	33	28
33	Padmini, F.			10-4-1930	29	2
34	Ramzanbi, F.			23-2-1928	22	4
35	Ganga, F.			23-9-1915	21	16
36	Shanker, M.			19-1-1916	26	6
37	Horatius, M.			1-8-1918	28	13
38	Forester, M.			15-3-1906	33	26
39	Kamatchi, F.			10-4-1914	36	18
40	Meenakshi, F.	9-3-1889		...	43	43
41	Libera, F.			5-3-1909	39	23
42	Mallathi, F.			26-5-1926	25	5
43	Emily, F.			22-6-1899	52	32
44	Lalitha, F.			2-3-1931	36	1
45	Kunthi, F.			2-3-1931	31	1
46	Ganapathi, M.			4-4-1931	32	1
47	Thamburatty, F.			6-2-1913	31	19
48	Chickaluxmi, F.			27-5-1927	45	5
49	Mehra, F.			27-2-1929	28	3
50	Girija, F.			5-5-1928	49	4
51	Bakerali, M.			10-5-1911	31	21
52	Diwan, M.			31-5-1926	22	6
53	Elsie, F.			31-5-1907	46	25
54	Chandramathi, F.			22-2-1927	50	5
55	Masthi, M.			28-4-1917	27	15
56	Janaki, F.			11-3-1923	23	9
57	Sirdhar, M.			7-8-1906	30	25
58	Krishna, M.			31-3-1916	31	16
59	Bessie, F.	3-7-1899		...	32	32
60	Kali, F.			11-1-1919	38	13
61	Droupadi, F.			20-1-1925	27	7
62	Ranger, M.			17-3-1906	35	26
63	Narasimhan, M.			11-1-1927	35	5
64	Suguna, F.			9-12-1927	34	4
65	Cesar, M.			12-2-1910	32	22
66	Peri, F.			11-4-1889	67	42
67	Chamundy, F.	1893		...	39	39
68	Devamaji, F.		14-5-1926	...	31	6
69	Rukmani, F.			22-5-1926	24	6
70	Chambagom, F.			9-4-1918	28	14
71	Maharani, F.			27-5-1926	36	5
72	Isabella, F.			Feb. 1898	52	34
73	Countess, F.			6-6-1910	44	21
74	Mothima, F.		14-5-1926	...	28	6
75	Emperor, M.			6-3-1909	35	23
76	Tino, M.			2-3-1917	32	15
77	Nethravathi, F.			21-2-1905	32	27
78	Sutlej, F.			27-2-1902	41	30

2. Summary.

Division		Over 60 years of age	Over 50 years of age	Over 40 years of age	Over 30 years of age	Over 20 years of age	Total
S. Coimbatore	...	...	2	7	7	...	16
Nilambur	...	...	2	3	9	4	18
Nilgiris	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Wynaad	...	...	2	4	13	6	25
N. Mangalore	...	1	...	...	3	1	5
S. Mangalore	...	...	1	2	4	2	9
Total ...		1	7	16	38	16	78

The majority of the elephants being young ones, below thirty years of age, no useful estimate regarding the average period of captivity nor the age to which an elephant lives in captivity can be made. The oldest, 'Peri', age 67, was captured in 1889, when she was 15 years old, and has a record of 42 years' service, whereas 'Eva' age 56, of the South Coimbatore Division, purchased in 1885, when she was 9 years old, has a longer record of 47 years. Similarly 'Theebaw', age 54, of the Nilambur Division, captured in 1886, when he was 8 years old, has a record of 46 years; while 'Akbar' born in 1888, of the South Coimbatore Division, has remained with the Department throughout the past 44 years.

According to the Inspector of Livestock, elephant 'Peri', mentioned above, is the oldest that has ever been in the Department. Elephants are reported to have lived for over ninety years in the Mysore Palace. This is attributed to the fact that they are maintained solely for ceremonial purposes. Mr. F. X. Mascarenhas, retired Inspector of Livestock, states, however, that an elephant named Noor Jehan lived to an age of ninety years in the Wynaad Division, and that another named Parvathi was given to the Madras Zoo when she was ninety years old. He mentions also that he had to deal with an elephant named Dodda Laximi and that she was then nearing 120 years. But there is unfortunately no definite record.

There recently appeared, but the source is forgotten, some fabulous story of elephants in Ceylon passing from the Portuguese to the Dutch and so to the British—some very great age was mentioned.

MADRAS,  
September 30, 1932.

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VIII.—ELEPHANTS EATING EARTH.

It is curious how elephants seem to go in for eating earth more in some localities than others.